



Remote Learning Plan

Friday, March 27, 2020

Dear Cornerstone Family,

As we near the end of spring break and prepare to move to a full Remote Learning program beginning on Tuesday, March 31, we wanted to provide you with some updated information that we pray will serve to make this transition as smooth as possible. We received an overwhelmingly positive response to our enrichment week and excellent constructive feedback from students, teachers, and parents that we have taken into consideration. We hope that the few adjustments we have made will make the Remote Learning experience a positive one.

What are the goals of Remote Learning?

Cornerstone Christian Academy is determined to continue providing quality instructional programming during Illinois' extended school closure. While the way we "do school" will look quite different in the coming days, we remain committed to our mission: To challenge our students to know Christ as Lord, to think biblically, and to grow in knowledge and skill that they may serve and influence the world in His name. Our emphasis during remote learning will be to provide exposure to and experience with essential academic concepts presented from a biblical worldview which will best prepare our students to matriculate to the next grade level and/or meet high school graduation requirements. We are mindful that many of our families are balancing working from home while assisting their children with Remote Learning. We fully expect that we will need to continue to make adjustments as we move through this season of transition.

Where/how will we access the week's learning plan?

Teachers will publish the week's learning plan by 12:00 AM (midnight) on the first school day of the week. In order to aid parents and students with planning out their work/school week, teachers will publish the entire week's worth of lessons at the beginning of the week, posting each day's template to its respective date within the FACTS/RenWeb Family Portal (K-12). While the learning plan outline will be posted on the first school day of the week, please note that some resources (ex. instructional videos) may not be available until their designated delivery days.

- Early Education teachers will continue to e-mail their weekly plans to their families.
- Kindergarten through Fifth Grade classroom teachers will post daily plans in the FACTS/RenWeb Family Portal using one streamlined template that allows the entire plan to be posted in the students' homeroom classes so that parents do not need to open each individual class to find the plans. Please note that learning plans for K – 5th specials and 1st – 5th science classes will only be posted in the homeroom portal on the first instructional day of the week. Students will have the flexibility to complete these activities as they best fit into their family schedules.
- Sixth through Twelfth Grade teachers will post their daily plans in the FACTS/RenWeb Family Portal. Teachers are making every effort to simplify the communication of their daily plans and are working together in teams to be careful not to overburden students and families. Students should make a habit of checking the ANNOUNCEMENTS, HOMEWORK, LESSON PLANS, and RESOURCES tabs for each class to be sure they have all of the pertinent information for each class each day. If they have any questions, they are encouraged to contact their course instructors.

Will students receive any “face-to-face” instruction during the closure?

Teachers have been encouraged to provide face-to-face interaction with their students at regular intervals when possible and practical. The amount of “face time” will vary from one grade level to the next and from one subject to another. Recognizing that device sharing in households is common, and some families access the internet through hotspots and/or on a data plan, “live” or pre-recorded direct instruction will be abbreviated, and will not run the length of a traditional class period.

In order to avoid scheduling conflicts, “live” upper school interactions will typically take place during the class’ regularly scheduled period or during a pre-arranged time coordinated among the instructors and communicated on the weekly learning plan. In the event that more than one member of the same household has a “live” session scheduled at the same time, Upper School students are encouraged to contact their instructors to inform them of the conflict. In most cases, videoconferencing sessions will be recorded and available for viewing at another time, and/or instructors will be able deliver the content in another format (class notes, direct teacher/student communication, etc.).

Several of our teachers will be providing smaller group videoconferencing tutoring sessions – particularly for content areas that emphasize skill-building, such as mathematics. Please watch for more information to come directly from faculty members regarding these opportunities. It has been recommended that teachers use similar videoconferencing platforms so that families do not have to navigate multiple apps. To this end, we have requested that teachers utilize some combination of Zoom (EE-12), Moodle (6-12), and/or Outlook Teams (9-12) for all “live” instructional sessions and videoconferencing.

How will student work be assessed?

Teachers will be selecting the most essential learning activities/assignments per content area/class to be submitted and reviewed each week for grading. Many instructors will use language like, “recommended” and “required” to distinguish those activities that will be assigned grades.

Remote Learning in the Lower School grades will include paper/pencil work compiled in packets. Instructions for the daily activities will still be published to the Family Portal in FACTS/RenWeb, but the majority of the materials needed to execute these plans will be included in the packets provided. Parents of students enrolled in EE, First Grade, and Third Grade received communication from the EE Director and Lower School Principal designating the afternoon of Monday, March 30, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM as the time when families may participate in drive-through packet pick-up. (Kindergarten, Second Grade, Fourth Grade, and Fifth Grade students received their instructional materials before dismissal on Friday, March 13.) Should the mandated school closure be extended, we will designate another date for return of the K-5 assignments for grading and distribution of new packets. We will strive to provide advanced notice and consistent timing of these drop-off/pick-up events for ease of scheduling.

The shift to remote learning presents some unique opportunities – and some unique challenges. While we will assess student work and report grades, we certainly do not want students’ grades to be adversely impacted in a significant manner during this time due to limited access to personalized instruction and/or instructional/technological resources. Teachers will monitor student progress closely; students and parents are encouraged to do the same. Open lines of communication and teacher/student/parent partnership will be extremely important to the success of this instructional format.

What should we do if we have technology needs?

If you have need of a school-issued laptop or do not have internet capability at home, please let your principal or the Director of Technology Nic Rassi know as soon as possible. Mr. Rassi may be reached at nic.rassi@cornerstonechristian.com.

How should we communicate with school personnel during the closure?

All CCA faculty, staff, and administrators will be working and are considered “on call” during regular school hours throughout the mandated closure. The most efficient mode of communication will be to directly e-mail the person with whom you need to be in contact. Office personnel will be checking voicemail periodically throughout the day and will forward messages as needed. Please allow a window of reasonable response time as many members of our team are also assisting their own children with school work while carrying out their instructional responsibilities.

What else is “in the works”?

CCA’s Spiritual Life Director Austin Parker is working with Technology Director Nic Rassi to provide all-school access to the newly-created CHAPEL resource area in Moodle. Mr. Parker has been working hard to prepare devotional content and messages from the Word of God to encourage our community along this new path. Please be on the lookout for more information regarding access to these resources and future opportunities to worship and pray together.

How can we pray for one another?

- Ask God to help our working parents balance their work and family responsibilities.
- Pray that God grants us teachability and flexibility as we learn how to execute a quality Remote Learning program.
- Praise God for His protection over the health of our school community!
- Thank God that we live in a time and place when/where we have access to advanced technology that enables us to continue teaching beyond the walls of CCA.
- Ask God to give us stamina, creativity, and joy in this journey.
- Ask God to minister to our students and staff who are missing the daily personal contact that the regular rhythms of the school day bring.
- Pray for and encourage one another. We will not be perfect. We will make mistakes. We will do our best to learn from them and be better than we were the day before. Ask God to help us to be gracious and realistic in the midst of unbelievable truly unique circumstances. We need to lean on and learn from one another – now more than ever!

We miss you and long to see you again soon! We pray that God uses this time in global history and in the life of our school community to build up His church and to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. Look up. Move forward in faith. God is surely out ahead of us and has plans for this season that we could not begin to imagine if we tried.

In Christ,

Your CCA Administrative Team